REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are now pending in the application. By this amendment, Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. The basis for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings originally filed. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brosseau et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,571,782) in view of Heston et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,342,126.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 calls for a manifold and a sensor in combination. The combination includes a port for receiving the sensor and external projections adjacent the port for aligning the sensor during insertion of the sensor into the port and for preventing removal of the sensor from the port. See Specification at pg. 3, Paragraphs [0020-0021] and FIGS. 1 and 2. The external projections include a rotation stop for preventing further rotation of the sensor once a seated position is achieved and an anti-rotation projection to prevent rotation of the sensor into an insertion position once a cable is connected to a cable connection interface portion of the sensor. See

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Specification at pg. 3, Paragraphs [0020-0021]. Similarly, independent Claim 2 calls for an insert retention system including a plurality of material formations extending from a body adjacent an insertion port, whereby the material formations are adapted to obstruct rotation of an insert from a second orientation to a first orientation upon attachment of an external connection to an external connection interface of the insert. See Specification at pg. 4, Paragraph [0027].

Independent Claim 6 calls for a method of attachment of a sensor to a wall of a fluid chamber including providing a plurality of outward projections formed on an outer surface of the wall adjacent a fluid passage, whereby the outward projections are adapted to direct insertion of a sensor into the passage in a first orientation and to permit rotation of the sensor about a longitudinal axis to a second orientation. See Specification at pg. 3, Paragraphs [0020-0021] and FIGS. 1 and 2. Furthermore, independent Claim 6 calls for preventing rotation of the sensor from the second orientation to the first orientation once an external connection is made to the sensor. See Specification at pg. 4, Paragraph [0027].

In this manner, the present invention discloses a pair of insertion guides (120, 130) to aid in properly aligning a sensor (200) relative to a port (110) formed on a manifold (100). See Specification at pg. 3, Paragraphs [0019-0020] and FIG. 1. In addition, the present invention discloses a rotation stop (140) that extends from the manifold to prevent rotation of the sensor relative to the manifold once an external connector (250) is fixedly attached to the sensor. See Specification at pg. 3, Paragraph [0021] and pg. 4, Paragraph [0027]. Brosseau and Heston, either in combination or alone, fail to teach or suggest such a relationship.

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Brosseau discloses a manifold assembly (10) operably mounting a manifold vacuum sensor (40) thereon. See Brosseau at Col. 3, lns. 58-67 and Col. 4, lns. 1-13. Brosseau does not address the specific connection of the vacuum sensor, and therefore fails to teach or suggest even a single projection extending from the manifold.

Heston is directed to a twist lock attachment for a thermal probe and includes a plastic intake manifold (10) having an induction passage (12) and a cylindrical socket (14). See Heston at Col. 2, lns. 14-21 and FIG. 5. The cylindrical socket is the only element disclosed by Heston as extending from the manifold. Therefore, Heston fails to teach or suggest a plurality of projections extending from a manifold. Furthermore, because Brosseau and/or Heston fail to teach a plurality of projections extending from a manifold, Brosseau and Heston fail to teach a first projection that limits rotation of a sensor once a seated position is achieved and a second projection that prohibits extraction of the sensor from the manifold once an external structure is attached to the sensor.

Because Brosseau and Heston do not disclose a plurality of projections extending from a manifold, and none of the cited references cures this deficiency on Brosseau and Heston, Applicant's invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In this manner, it is believed that independent Claims 1, 2, and 6, as well as Claims 3-5 and 7-8, respectively dependent therefrom, are in a condition for allowance in light of the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

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CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1-4-05

By: _____

Matthew H. Szalach, Reg. No. 53,665
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600
Attorney for Applicant

Ralph E. Smith
CIMS 483-02-19
DaimlerChrysler Intellectual Capital Corporation
DaimlerChrysler Technology Center
800 Chrysler Drive
Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2757
248-944-6519

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